

HL3

Thome, Gregory D

From: Krohn, Kaarina
 Sent: Friday, December 09, 2005 10:18 AM
 To: Hyatt, Amy J; Thome, Gregory D
 Subject: Tuomioja on U.S. response to inquiry

RELEASED IN FULL

Friday, December 9, 2005

Finland disappointed with U.S. report on suspected CIA flight

- Finland's finds the response it received from the United States on Wednesday to its inquiry regarding the stopover of a suspected CIA-operated aircraft at the Helsinki-Vantaa airport disappointing.
- FM Erkki Tuomioja (SDP) says the response is very general in tone. It does not make it clear whether or not the CIA has transported suspected terrorists from one place to another by way of Finland.
- "We are disappointed. In terms of the issue, it would have been better to get more detailed information," Tuomioja said to the STT on Thursday.
- According to the Foreign Minister, it is clear that identical responses have been sent to all those European countries that have requested a report. He does not believe that the U.S. would provide more detailed reports.
- The response mainly repeats what Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has said about the allegations in public. Rice has stressed that the U.S. complies with the law, and does not treat suspects in a degrading manner.
- As to Finland, suspicions concern only one flight. The suspected Hercules aircraft landed at Helsinki-Vantaa in mid-May 2003. Arriving from Frankfurt, it left for Stockholm after one hour. It had been reported as bringing freight to the U.S. Embassy in Helsinki./HS

Tuomioja: Fine if the U.S. torture ban is true

- In connection with the NATO ministerial on Thursday, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice repeated her assurances that the CIA does not torture suspects of terrorism anywhere in the world. She also said that the United States honored its international commitments and did not treat suspects degradingly.
- The issue was discussed during the dinner with representatives of both the EU and NATO on Wednesday night. After the event, for instance France, Germany and the Netherlands expressed their satisfaction with Rice's report.
- FM Erkki Tuomioja, who was present at the dinner, took a cautiously positive stand to Rice's assurances.
- "At this point, the assurances have to be regarded as truthful," he said to the STT. He added that it was also essential how torture was defined. He recalled that there have been different views on this in the U.S. Administration.
- Today only few know where the U.S. draws the line between torture and acceptable investigation techniques, since even Red Cross observers do not have access to all prisons./DEM